

Church News.

*from the Rector,*

I should like to take this opportunity to say a word of thanks and best wishes to all in the community of Great and Little Tey where it has been my privilege to serve as rector for over thirty years. Perhaps the first thing that comes to my mind is how quickly the time has passed and how much the church has been involved in the life of both our villages. I have enjoyed contacts with so many families. At Great Tey, for example, I have baptised nearly 300 babies and eventually taken the wedding service of some of them. At both Great and Little Tey I have enjoyed the support of so many people. And whilst the Church of England has changed so much over the past thirty years, I hope that we have been able to preserve the best traditions of the faith which has been handed down to us over the centuries. My wife Jane and I owe so much to the people of the parish. We have done our fair share of organising events and clearing up after events, but it has all been great fun and well worth it. I wish everybody in the churches and the parish every blessing and happiness.

People often ask me who the next vicar is going to be. I am afraid the powers that be have yet to decide who the priest will be, but I expect that an amalgamation will be likely with other parishes. I have recently received official notice that the rectory will be sold off, sadly bringing to an end centuries of Great Tey having a resident priest. We live in challenging times and we must do our best to move with them. I am sure that all those who wish the village church well will do their best to support it. In this way the church will enjoy a long and fruitful life. Never in my wildest dreams could I imagine that we would move away without a farewell church service and reception afterwards. This will go ahead, but later in the year, and Jane and I shall be able to say our farewells properly then. When this is arranged I hope you will put the date in your diary and come along to say goodbye.

All the very best to you all,

Rev John Richardson.

June 2020.